

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In response to the rejection of claims 2, 5 and 6 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, these claims have been cancelled and incorporated with suitable amendments into independent claim 1 so as to avoid the issue presented.

The Examiner's rejection of claim 8 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 is not understood. A formate is known to be a salt or ester of formic acid. Accordingly, a substance such as sodium formate is clearly an alkaline metal ester of a fatty acid. It is not seen how the applicant has used the term "esters" in any ambiguous or unnatural or non-normal way. If the Examiner continues to feel that there is some issue, then it is respectfully requested that such be more particularly pointed out to the undersigned.

Since there was no rejection of claim 6 based on prior art and since claim 6 has now been incorporated into independent claim 1 from which all other claims depend directly or indirectly, it is now assumed that all still pending claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-14 are in allowable form.

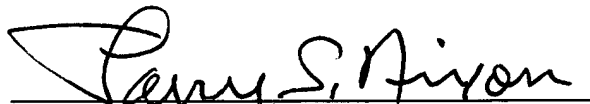
The rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102 and the rejection of those same claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 are both respectfully traversed. However, because these rejections have now been mooted by the above amendments, it is not believed necessary at this time to explain further the deficiencies of these grounds of rejection.

RODE et al.
Appl. No. 10/731,407
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Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable form and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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